

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 /015 W  
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R 080739Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6494

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0406

FROM AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, TH, CASC

SUBJECT: VISA STATUS OF AAFLI PROGRAM DIRECTOR SUAZO

REF: STATE 302508

1. WE HAVE DELAYED REPLYING TO REFTEL UNTIL WE COULD TALK WITH SUAZO AGAIN ABOUT HIS VISA PROBLEMS. HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A HOLIDAY TRIP TO INDIA AND NEPAL AND HAS BROUGHT US UP TO DATE ON THIS SITUATION.

2. SUAZO HAS BEEN IN THAILAND ALMOST A YEAR, BUT HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE STILL REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE RTG DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AT TWO TO THREE WEEK INTERVALS TO OBTAIN EXTENSIONS OF THEIR VISAS. THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS BEEN IN A SIMILAR PREDICAMENT FOR OVER TWO YEARS DESPITE EMBASSY EFFORTS TO ASSIST HIM IN ARRANGING FOR A ONE YEAR VISA. WE HAVE INTERVENED ON SUAZO'S BEHALF BOTH BY DIPLOMATIC NOTES AND ORALLY WITH LABOR DEPARTMENT, INTERIOR MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS. SUAZO REPORTS THAT OUR DIPLOMATIC NOTE IN SEPTEMBER HELPED AND HE STILL USES THIS TO GET HIS PERIODIC EXTENSIONS RATHER THAN HAVING TO LEAVE THAILAND EVERY TWO OR THREE WEEKS AND REENTER AS IS THE CASE WITH MANY BUSINESSMEN AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

3. ON THE BASIS OF OUR TALK WITH SUAZO JANUARY 6, WE WILL RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN OFFICIALLY WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY AND  
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MFA OFFICIALS. WE ARE FAR FROM CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT THESE

EFFORTS WILL SUCCEED. KEEPING SUAZO ON A TIGHT LEASH MAY  
WELL BE A MATTER OF THAI NATIONAL POLICY RATHER THAN  
BUREAUCRATIC BUMBLING GIVEN THE PRESENT SENSITIVE STATE OF  
THAI LABOR. TOO MUCH INTERVENTION ON OUR PART MIGHT BE  
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. REST ASSURED WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN.  
MEANWHILE, DESPITE THE NUISANCE CREATED BY THESE FREQUENT  
VISA RENEWALS, SUAZO IS ABLE TO OPERATE AND IS DOING GOOD  
WORK.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** vogelfj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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